There is no proposal as yet about such a highway from Vadodara to Bombay.

Contracts for Printing of Telephone Directories and "Yellow Pages" to Private Parties

283. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various private parties have been awarded contracts to print Telephone Directories and "Yellow pages" for various cities;

(b) if so, the salient features of the contracts;

(c) whether there has been any delay in printing of Directories for Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures have been taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHR P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides, providing agreed number of Directories free of cost to the Department, for telephone subscribers, the contractor has also to pay an agreed amount/percentage as royalty to the Depatment.

(c) There has been no delay in printing of directories in case of Madras. However, there has been delay in the case of Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta.

(d) Notices have been issued to the contractors to expedite printing of delayed issues of directories, as laid down in the contract.

Widening and improvement of National Highway between Bombay and Pune

284. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be please to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen and improve the National Highway between Bombay and Pune; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some works of widening and improvement are already in progress on this section of NH-4. Further works will be considered after finalisation of the VIII Plan.

Bills pending from states for presidential Assent

285. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bills pending from States for Presidential assent alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some cases there has been inordinate delay in getting presidential assent; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) As on date, there are 76 State Bills requiring Presidential assent. Statewise information is given in the enclosed statement. Of these, 35 Bills are pending for want of necessary clarifications from the concerned State Governments and the remaining are under various stages of consideration in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries and Departments of Government of India.

(b) and (c) A few cases have remained pending for quite some time as efforts continue to be made to reconcile the State and national perspective in a satisfactory manner.